THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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FROM THE EDITOR

Well, I'm sure that all of our loyal readers will be delighted to know that THE DISSEMINATOR is now part of the National Library's Electronic Publications Pilot Project. Yes, yes, it's been a hard climb to the top but now that we're there we promise not forget the little people. I am only kidding, of course. The EPPP is a project which seeks to identify and to understand issues that libraries will encounter in handling electronic publications and online collections. The Project began in June 1994 and is expected to produce a final report in June 1995. You can view the EPPP home page on the WWW at: http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp/e3pe.htm. -- Sue Dirani

TECH TALK

The Provincial Library Automation Project Management Team, co-chaired by Leslie Foster and Betsy Armstrong, has been meeting regularly on Monday mornings. The APMT continually reviews the automation project at the Provincial Library ensuring that it maintains a sound planning course. The APMT will communicate decisions, schedules, etc. on a timely basis. One of the recent recommendations was to put as much information as possible on the Provincial Library's WWW home page.

RESOURCE SHARING STUDY: For many years, the Provincial Library has been adding holdings of other Nova Scotia libraries to the National Library's DOBIS database under contract from the National Library. As a result of the new federal budget, the regulations have changed and the contract was not renewed. To address this issue, we are undertaking a study to determine alternatives and a new direction for Nova Scotia, the goal being determining the best way to ensure user friendly and direct end user access to information about Nova Scotia library holdings and to link this to the National Resource Sharing strategy of the National Library. The Terms of Reference are in draft form and will be shared with members of the N.S. Resource Sharing Committee. If anyone else would like a copy contact Leslie

Foster (lfoster@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

AUTOMATION WORKING GROUP: The Automation Working Group, which includes representatives from the regional libraries, met on March 24 for a very productive session. The agenda included a discussion of barcoding strategies, a province-wide library borrower's card, public Internet access issues, an update on the Department of Education and Culture's Wide Area Network, the "Option B" automation proposal and a question & answer period. The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 9.

MULTILIS UPDATE: The newest version of MultiLIS (release 11) was installed at the Provincial Library on Wednesday April 26 at 4:00 PM AST.

MICROFICHE: As reported previously by e-mail, the indexes for the new microfiche were produced on April 1, with the tape conversions done and the actual production tapes being dropped off at Supply and Services on April 7.

WIDE AREA NETWORK: There have been various meetings between representatives of the Dept. of Education and Culture and the WAN (Wide Area Network) vendor to review the details of this province-wide initiative. We have discussed the dates for the regional library installations and should be able to post the schedule in early May. This is a very exciting initiative which means that each branch of the regional public libraries in Nova Scotia will have a 56K connection to the Internet!

APLA '95: Three Provincial Library staff members will be presenting sessions at the APLA annual conference in Charlottetown in May. Andrea John will be offering a one-on-one resume consulting service as well as a session on interviewing skills while Leslie Foster will be participating on a panel discussion of technological trivia, tips and trends. Marion Pape, Past President of APLA, will be participating on a panel with the other Atlantic provincial librarians where she will present the new directions being taken at the N.S. Provincial Library.

BARBARA KINCAID RETIRING

On April 27, Barbara Kincaid will retire from her position as CEO for the Western Counties Regional Library Board. Barbara has held this post since 1969, shortly after Western Counties was formed as a region. A native of Toronto, she has spent her professional career in rural areas of Canada, primarily in Saskatchewan and in Nova Scotia. She has overseen the opening of nine of the ten Western Counties branches and in her time the staff has grown from three full-time employees to over 30. Barbara has been very active in professional and governmental organizations, including spearheading the formation of the Nova Scotia Library Association and serving as its first President. She says that she intends to spend her retirement getting lots of exercise, raising her show dogs, and (surprise!) reading. Having devoted herself to public library service in Nova Scotia for so long, she certainly deserves all the leisure and relaxation in the world. -- Trudy Amirault, WCRL

INFORMATION POLICY SECONDMENT

Marion Pape has been seconded and will spend 75% of her time from June 1 - Sept. 30 as a member of an interdepartmental team involved in researching and drafting the Government of Nova Scotia Information Policy. On April 27, an issues workshop was presented to over 50 people from all areas of government to identify and clarify the scope of issues for the seconded team members. Watch for links to information policy information on the Provincial Library's NcompasS home page.

FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW

The Report of the Regional Libraries Funding Formula Review Committee was approved by the Minister of Education and Culture on April 21, 1995. Letters are being distributed to municipalities and library boards with a copy of the report. If you would like a copy please contact Debbie Ross (dross@nshpl.library.ns.ca). Further details on the implementation of the recommendations will be forthcoming shortly.

AUDIT OF THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

The Provincial Library is currently undergoing a full scope audit by the Nova Scotia Department of the Auditor General. The scope of the audit focuses on the accountability of financial and information systems at both the Provincial Library and the regional libraries. Two regional libraries will be visited during the course of the audit.

SCHOOLNET GRANTS

SchoolNet is a joint federal, provincial and territorial initiative linking universities, colleges, schools and libraries across Canada to the Internet. In order to achieve this goal by 1998, SchoolNet's Community Access Project operates a grant program to assist rural communities in getting connected to the Internet. The project grants cover items such as hookup, hardware, software, and furniture. Copies of a brochure outlining the program details have been sent to all regional libraries in Nova Scotia. The deadline for grant applications is October 31, 1995.

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP UPDATE

Operation Bootstrap is a grant program which addresses the needs of rural Nova Scotians for access to interactive learning and training initiatives in the area of business information. Chris Merrick, who completed his term of employment with Operation Bootstrap at the end of March, produced a catalogue of interactive business training programs that can be purchased under the Operation Bootstrap project. Copies of the catalogue will be sent out to all regional libraries along with a copy of the combined regional libraries' grant application.

INFORMATION RIGHTS NOW!

Information Rights Week was celebrated with a bang this month. Education and Culture Minister, John MacEachern, proclaimed the Week in the House of Assembly on April 11, and attractive Proclamations were produced. Stan Skreszewski of the Coalition for Public Information lectured to a good sized crowd at the Halifax City Regional Library about the need to find public space on the information highway. The Chebucto Community Net (formerly the Chebucto FreeNet) really took the week and ran with it, scheduling events such as a big party with several hundred guests to celebrate the Community Net's birthday. Thanks to all the sponsors of Information Rights Week's activities: Metro Community Access Society, Council of Nova Scotia Archives, Association of Records Managers and Administrators, Halifax Library Association, Nova Scotia Library Association, Atlantic Provinces Library Association, Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies, Halifax City Regional Library and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

PERSONAL INTERNET DIRECTORIES

The Personal Internet Directory, created by Gwen MacNairn, has arrived and 100 copies have been sent to each regional library headquarters. Depending on each region's policies, they can be distributed among library staff or sold to the public at a suggested price of $2 per booklet. With an increasing emphasis on fundraising, it is hoped that the proceeds from this project be used by participating regions to offset the cost of providing community access to the Internet. Extra copies can be ordered by contacting Gwen MacNairn (gmacnair@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

TRAINING UPDATE

Gwen MacNairn, the Provincial Library's automation trainer, gave a number of Internet workshops during February and March. At the intermediate level, there was a workshop entitled "Spotlight on Reference", accommodating two staff members from each regional library in the province. At the introductory level, there were several half-day sessions for Department of Education and Culture staff and full-day sessions for the staff from the Halifax City Regional Library. All workshops were well attended (the combined attendance was 95) and the feedback was very positive. The focus during April has been to prepare video training packages - one to introduce computer basics and the other to help those with dial-up access to the Internet. Looking ahead, the emphasis will be moving away from the Internet and heading towards library automation.

NEW TRAINING ROOM

A new Training Room, for system-wide training on NcompasS and the Internet, will shortly be operational at the Provincial Library. The room, previously the home of the relocated Professional Collection, will be transformed over the next couple of weeks into a computer classroom suitable for up to twelve people. The room will house six computers, an instructor's workstation complete with LCD panel, flipcharts, whiteboards, a screen, a lecturn, a T.V. and a VCR. There will also be a table and chairs for group discussions or for small meetings when the room is not in use. The Professional Collection's monographs and serials have been moved out into a more public area currently used by the

Technical Services division.

TALLY HO!

A tally sheet system was introduced this month at the Provincial Library and will be used by all staff to count their tasks and activities. The detailed sheets will contribute to new methods of performance management and to the reporting of the Provincial Library's service activities.

UPDATE ON PARL DEMO SITE

The planning for the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library demonstration site is moving along in anticipation of public access to the Internet and NcompasS. On April 5, Marion Pape, Leslie Foster and Carole Compton-Smith met with PARL staff and board members to review some of the expected outcomes of this project. All of the hardware has now been received and installation is expected at the New Glasgow Library by the end of April. Following this there will be some staff training on the equipment, NcompasS and the Internet before making it available for public access.

EAST PICTOU TO THE WORLD

The Global Electronic Library Project twinning East Pictou Rural High School and Hammond Middle School in Virginia was inaugurated on April 5, 1995. Satellite television hookups were in place to connect Nova Scotia with Virginia, New York, and Toronto. An untimely snowstorm prevented the video signal from being transmitted from Nova Scotia but it was interesting to hear the philosophy of the Jones Education Network. This company is promoting the digitization of works within the public domain of the Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada. Dr. Marianne Scott, National Librarian, received a $450,000 grant from Stentor members for the further digitization of materials in the National Library of Canada. Materials currently available for the students to use on the project are about Confederation in Canada and the Civil War in the United States. These materials are available to all of the students in the project via the Internet. In Nova Scotia, this Internet access is being sponsored by MT&T with links into NBNet.

CM MOVES TO MLA

The Canadian Library Association recently announced the sale of "CM : a Reviewing Journal of Canadian Materials for Young People" (also known as Canadian Materials) to the Manitoba Library Association. The MLA will publish its first issue of the new electronic magazine in June of 1995. The organization has secured first year funding for the magazine and plans to publish 52 electronic issue per year, delivered to subscribers' e-mail addresses. Libraries in Manitoba will receive a free one year subscription and subscribers to the former paper version will receive a two month free trial.

PROFESSIONAL READING

This month, we feature books on two hot topics in the library field. The first is Total Quality Management and the second is library trusteeship which would be of interest to public libraries.

1) O' Neill, Rosanna M. Total Quality Management in Libraries : a Sourcebook. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1994. (Call # Prof 025 .1 ONe)

- This book is intended to be a reference book as well as a source of information on Total Quality Management for Libraries. Much of it is comprised of reprinted articles from the library literature in the early 1980's through 1994. The contributions have been selected to provide an A-to-Z overview of TQM and to exhibit practical applications in libraries. The book includes a glossary of TQM terms, a select bibliography and detailed appendices.

2) Baughman, James C. - Policy Making for Public Library Trustees. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1993. (Call # Prof 021 .8 Bau)

- The author, a former library consultant and library trustee, provides possible solutions to twenty-five problems library trustees might face. He clearly states, however, that these solutions are his own and are not necessarily the only ones appropriate for the stated problems. Detailed appendices are provided. -- Frank Oram

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